(b) The major problems on National Highway-5 brought out by some local NGO, Road Safety Forum, are as under:

(i) Access problem to Gundugolanu Panchayat due to widening of National Highway-5 and the problem relating to the 100 year old bridge at the entrance of Gundugolanu Panchayat.

(ii) Access problem to Bhimadole Panchayat on National Highway-5 due to the widening of National Highway-5 and the existence of railway line.

(c) and (d) National Highways Authority of India has been in correspondence with Chairman, Road Safety Forum, to discuss issues raised by the Forum. Chairman, Road Safety Forum, has not responded.

Construction of bridge over Brahmaputra River

2451. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for moving heavily loaded goods trucks via Mangaldai/Kharupetia (Darang District Assam) to cross the Kolia Bhongra Bridge over Brahmaputra river to upper Assam;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to weak bridge at National Highway-39 near Mangaldai, the trucks are unable to move to take advantage of shortest routes via above bridge;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to construct the above bridge;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have chalked out any scheme for construction of Mangaldai Bridge during the Tenth Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (f) The existing bridge at Km. 35 on NH 52 (Not NH-39) across river Mangaldoi is not of NH standards. It is proposed to replace it with a permanent bridge of NH standards in the 10th Plan period.